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NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION: INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
TECHNOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HAZARDS

Technical session

Programme

The session on interrelationships between technological and natural hazards is organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Objectives. The session will highlight synergistic disasters (Na-Techs) where natural events such as earthquakes cause technological emergencies such as chemical spills, causing significant impacts on society and the environment. The session will aim to increase awareness of the causes, implications and possible solutions to managing such complicated disaster scenarios by drawing on experience from around the world.

Introduction (5 minutes)

Mr. Ye Ruqiu, Deputy Administrator of the National Environmental Protection Agency from the People's Republic of China, will make an introductory statement.

Speaker 1: Keynote address (20 minutes)

Mr. Jim Makris, Emergency Coordinator, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States of America.

This presentation will provide an overview of the problems of Na-Techs with reference to the experience of the United States of America in managing the aftermath of Hurricane "Andrew", the mid-west floods and the Northridge earthquake.

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Speaker 2: Cause and effect

(15 minutes)

Dr. Evgenii Dmitriev, Director, Institute of Applied Ecology, Russian Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection.

This presentation will detail the Russian experience of managing Na-Techs, with particular reference to the problems of flooding in the Caspian Sea region.

Speaker 3: Cause and effect

(15 minutes)

Mr. Hideaki Oda, Japanese Ministry of Construction.

This presentation will outline the Japanese approach to flood prevention in urban areas where the consequences of a Na-Tech disaster would be particularly profound.

Audience discussion

(15 minutes)

Speaker 4: Management issues

(15 minutes)

Dr. Channaronk Chandrachoti, National Economic and Social Development Board, Thailand.

This presentation will examine the problems facing a rapidly industrializing country such as Thailand, and identify lessons that can be applied to other countries which face similar problems of increasing urbanization, a growing demand for industrial development and regions prone to natural disasters.

Speaker 5: Management issues

(15 minutes)

Mr. Alain Clerc, Coordinator, Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, United Nations Environment Programme.

This presentation will highlight the need to consider the environmental impacts of Na-Techs and will also examine the process whereby industrial impacts from pollution can aggravate natural disaster events such as storms and floods.

Audience discussion

(15 minutes)

Speaker 6: Planning and response

(10 minutes)

Dr. Claudio Margottini, ENEA, Italy.

This presentation will introduce the next two speakers in trying to tie together the lessons of cause and effect into practical planning and response options for countries facing Na-Techs.

Speaker 7: Planning and response

(15 minutes)

Professor Julio Kuroiwa, National University of Engineering, Peru.

This paper will present an integrated approach to natural and technological multi-hazard disaster reduction by the use of integrated planning and microzonation.

Speaker 8: Planning and response

(15 minutes)

Professor Enrico Quarantelli, Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware, United States of America

The final paper provides the future outlook for Na-Techs and notes that such events are likely to increase in both frequency and magnitude. Policy options for managing such trends are put forward, placing the session's discussions into a forward-looking context for future action.

Audience discussion

(15 minutes)

Summary of the discussion

Mr. Edward Bennett, Director of the Nuclear Safety, Industry and Environment and Civil Protection division of DGXI of the European Union will make a concluding statement.
